

Application No. 09/528,742
Amendment dated July 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 28, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 33-35, 37, 38, 47, 48, 50 and 52-55 are cancelled. Claim 31 is withdrawn. Claims 1, 19 and 51 is amended. Claims 1-10, 13, 16, 19-30, 32, 36, 39-46, 49, 51 and 56-63 are now pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1-10, 13, 16, 19-30, 32, 36, 39-46, 49 51 and 56-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner stated that "claims 1, 19, and 51 are vague and incomplete because while the preamble of the claim sets forth a method of labeling a protein, step c) only sets forth cleaving conditions, and it is unclear how this step labels the protein."

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As currently amended, independent claim 1's preamble sets forth a "method of identifying a protein exposed on a luminal surface of a cell lining"; independent claim 19's preamble sets forth a "method of isolating a protein that is exposed on a luminal surface of a perfusable space"; and independent claim 51's preamble sets forth a "method of isolating an organ-specific or tissue-specific protein that is exposed on a luminal surface of an arteriole, a capillary or a vein." Thus, none of the independent claims pending involve simply a method of labeling a protein.

As currently amended independent claims 1, 19, and 51 relate to methods of identifying and isolating a protein exposed on a luminal surface of a cell. The methods include the steps of providing a reagent having three domains, wherein one of the domains can be cleaved under a condition that does not denature the lumen exposed protein. Support for these claims can be found in Examples 1 and 2 of the Specification and Figures 2 and 4-5.

In light of the above amendments, applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that they are entitled to a letters patent. Applicants respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite the prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any question, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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